



WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1962



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE AS AT
DECEMBER, 1962**

Chairman :

Councillor M. P. RYAN

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor H. EVANS

Members :

Councillor B. D. GANDY

Councillor A. JOHNSON

Councillor L. D. MILLINGTON

Councillor S. J. PERKS

Councillor MRS. P. R. RHODES

Councillor T. GROSVENOR

Councillor H. P. FITZMAURICE

Councillor A. D. GRIFFITHS

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

J. H. E. BAINES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

P. H. G. GRIMMETT, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.I.S.A.A.
Dip. Smoke Inspectors.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

A. L. MORGAN, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., Dip. Smoke Inspectors.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

F. COLDRICK, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 9.4.62).

Pupil Public Health Inspector :

T. TOWNSEND.

Shorthand-Typists :

Mrs. M. J. MITCHELL

Mrs. A. C. BAILEY

Miss M. CHARLTON (Appointed 13.8.62).

DESCRIPTION OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Area :	2,515 acres
Estimated Population (mid-year) :	34,200
Rateable Value (at 1.4.62) :	£374,885
General Rate (1962-63) :	£1. 2s. 8d.

I am indebted to the Rating Department for the following information :

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Number</i>
Domestic Houses, etc. (as at 1.4.62)	9,977
Commercial Properties	1,330
On-Licensed Premises	23
Entertainment and Recreational	20
Public Utility	5
Educational and Cultural	14
Sewerage Disposal Works	2
Crown Property	5
Miscellaneous	44
Industrial	87

The District is bounded on its Northern Aspect by Cannock Rural District, on the North West, West and South West sides by the County Borough of Wolverhampton, and on the South East, East and North East by Willenhall Urban District.

The elevation is higher than the majority of its environs and is in most parts 450-525 ft. above sea level.

The inhabitants are engaged in a variety of trades which represent a typical cross-section of the Black Country community, i.e., a variety of iron and steel work with tube-making a prominent activity, foundry work, coal mining, etc. More peculiar to the district are keysmiths, locksmiths and steel trap makers.

The general health of the population is satisfactory.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1962

**To the Chairman and Members of
Wednesfield Urban District Council**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in presenting my report for 1962.

The year was not an uneventful one in the environmental and epidemiological health fields. At the beginning of the year Wednesfield found itself on the fringe of the area affected by the West Midlands smallpox scare, the anxiety of both the public and the medical profession being augmented by the more serious progression of the disease in other parts of the country. We had cause to be thankful that we got off so lightly but even so the experience was sufficient, I am sure, to impress upon Health Departments many valuable lessons. At the same time it served very well to advertise to the medical profession and the public the vital importance of the Public Health Service so many of the functions of which go unheralded and unsung. The value of the provision in the Public Health Act, 1961, for compensating persons excluded from work on account of contact with infectious disease was well demonstrated and I am sure that this provision, much appreciated by all medical officers of health, will prove most valuable in times to come. A little more detail of this episode will be found in my notes on infectious disease.

Again early in the year, a disease far more dangerous than smallpox in our society received prominence. By this I mean that was published the report of the Royal College of Physicians which brought together the evidence which shows conclusively the damning relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. To repeat some of the horrific facts—in 1962 in England and Wales there were 20,278 deaths from lung cancer among males ; 37 deaths of every 100 male cancer deaths were due to lung cancer. (At the present time the rate among women is considerably less, though

increasing yearly, probably largely because women as a whole have not yet smoked as long or as heavily as men). While the tobacco companies are allowed to continue to spend millions of pounds on advertising many of us in public health might well feel that all our efforts will be so much crying into the wind. Oddly enough, advertisements for cancer "cures" are forbidden, even though they might (at best) be harmless, and yet the advertising of something known to play a large part in cancer production is freely permitted. Nevertheless a variety of posters have been exhibited on the District Council's notice boards ever since the report was made public. Other posters and leaflets were distributed through some of the larger local factories and I would like to mention in particular the co-operation of the local Librarian, Mr. W. A. Holt, who has distributed leaflets and bookmarks and exhibited all our posters. The initial publicity did have some adverse on smoking but the "addiction" soon re-established its hold and many smokers were able to delude themselves that filter tips promised safety. It is said that we must all die somehow, the implication being that the addict cheerfully and willingly risks shortening his life for his pleasure but how many smokers in fact have never tried to give up the habit. Very few I warrant, and this makes a mockery of the suggestion that they do it willingly. Further, cigarette smoking contributes greatly to the vast problem of chronic bronchitis in this country which every year kills more than lung cancer does and pulls many more down into gasping inactivity. I wish "addicts" could see once strong men gasping out their remaining months and ears at the fireside from which they can barely move.

I do not pretend that smoking is the only factor concerned in the production of chronic bronchitis. There are undoubtedly a number of factors and the other of great importance is the atmospheric pollution against which we make such slow headway. However, in Wednesfield we are not laggards and it is pleasing to be able to record that yet another smoke control area came into operation in December. Unfortunately foundry emissions continue to mock our efforts despite the closest co-operation from the factories concerned. When it becomes practicable to deal with these emissions (and at present if possible it is far too costly) we may see the day in Wednesfield when our only smoke problem is from our upwind neighbours.

Later in the year the official report of the five year fluoridation studies in certain trial areas was published. It convincingly confirmed the results of similar previous studies in showing the effectiveness and safety of this procedure and confirmed that we could expect to see dental decay in our children reduced by an amount of the order of 50% with a consequent benefit in adult life.

The complete endorsement of the value of fluoridation which followed in a short time (as these things go) from a Government Department is to my mind a measure of the great degree of conviction carried by the report. Wednesfield's main water supply at the present time contains fluoride at the level of 0.06 to 0.1 parts per million, 1/10 or less of the recommended level and there is no doubt that the children of Wednesfield would benefit considerably from adjustment of the fluoride present to the desired level. Developments in the field were continuously reported to the Public Health Committee but no formal decisions had been made in the matter by the year's end as the Minister's views on the matter had not earlier been made known. Meanwhile the anti-fluoridationists spared no efforts to make their own views known and I would like to state at this point that I think we medical officers of health are not doing all that we might to combat this propaganda. We have habitually and unsurprisingly shunned publicity but on a question of such importance on which nearly all of us must be agreed then I think we have a duty to attempt to refute the "facts" constantly disseminated by the anti-fluoridationists and this means that we must be prepared to lend ourselves to public discussion in the correspondence columns of the local newspapers. We should be glad to remember that the opinion of the medical officer of health does carry considerable weight with the people of the district which he serves but too often his voice is not heard and the unrefuted propaganda of the anti-fluoridationists appears most convincing. The facts are clearly and overwhelmingly on our side and we should not need to stand on our dignity or leave it all to the Central Council for Health Education. The anti-fluoridationists certainly have considerable resources but if all the medical officers of health who cared took the trouble to combat their propaganda wherever it arises then I am sure that our resources would prove more than the equal of theirs. Admittedly there are limits to what can be done—many local newspapers serve more than one local authority area so that the responsibility for reply may not be clearly defined and again I think we would nearly all feel that the line should be drawn at public debate where the facts and arguments could not be properly produced, set out and digested, but I am sure that we could do more than we are doing.

Important developments in the health and welfare field were the ten year development plans which Local Health Authorities had been asked to produce and the National Assistance Act (Amendment) Act. In the former case Staffordshire produced its own plan and Wednesfield, as other districts, was notified of the County's intentions and asked for details of their own developments in the welfare field respecting housing, further details of which will be found in the body of the report. The increases proposed by the

County for the provision of homes for old people, the mentally handicapped and others are most gratifying. The opportunity was taken to pursue once more the Council's desire to see an ambulance station established close to or (preferably) in the district. The National Assistance Act (Amendment) Act which increased the powers of local authorities to provide certain services for the old and handicapped brought to the fore once again the question of arranging a meals on wheels service and following consideration of a detailed report by myself in October arrangements began to be put in hand for starting such a service.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say how pleased I was that the Council agreed to the organisation of a proper collection and incineration service for "post-confinement debris" to which further reference is made in the body of my report.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obedient Servant,

J. H. E. BAINES,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

(Figures in Parenthesis indicate 1961 Statistics)

Estimated Mid-Year Population 34,200 (33,180)

BIRTHS

Live Births				Male	Female		
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	395	361		
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	14	24		
				409	385	Total	794 (83 ²)
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population				.....		23.21	(25.08)
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 population							
(area comparability factor 0.84)					.....	19.50	(21.07)
Stillbirths				Male	Female		
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	12	5		
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	—	—		
				12	5	Total	17 (13)
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths.....						21.0	(15.4)
Total births				.....	.....	811	(845)
Illegitimate births as a percentage of all births						4.7	(3.7)

INFANT MORTALITY

Total deaths under one year of age	.....	.....			17	(20)
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	.....				21.4	(24.0)
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 live births)	.....	.....			10.1	(19.2)
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births)	.....	.....			7.6	(14.4)
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	.....	.....	.....	.....	28.4	(29.6)
Number of children surviving to age one year per 1,000 viable pregnancies	.....	.....				
				Male	953	
				Female	964	
				Com-bined	958	(961)

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of deaths					1	
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DEATHS (All causes)					Male	133	
					Female	106	
					Total	239	(223)
Crude death rate per 1,000 population						7.0	(6.7)
Corrected death rate (area comparability factor 1.86)						13.0	(12.5)

EXCESS OF LIVE BIRTHS OVER DEATHS					555	(609)
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POPULATION CHANGE

Number						+ 1,020	(1,660)
Percentage						+ 3.07	(5.27)

Notes on Vital Statistics

The district's population continued to increase but at a diminished rate both in terms of percentage and absolute numbers, the increase being 1,020 compared with 1,660 the previous year and more than half of this was due to natural increase. Yet this natural increase was itself diminished and the birth rate showed a greater fall than in the previous year. It seems likely that 1960 represented a birth rate peak for Wednesfield which will not be reached again unless there are major changes in the district.

Consideration of the other statistics shows an experience generally slightly less favourable than that of 1961 so that for instance the survival rate of infants was slightly less, the death rate higher and the illegitimacy rate higher. The close association in terms of cause between stillbirths and early infant deaths referred to in last year's report was again illustrated by the way in which an improvement in the neo-natal mortality rates was balanced by a deterioration in the stillbirth rate, the resultant being a slight improvement in the chances of the foetus surviving beyond the first week of life as shown by the perinatal mortality rate. Unfortunately a greater number of infant deaths occurred later in the first year of life (see Table I) though the causes were more widely spread than in 1961.

Such variations as these in the various rates measuring life and death can be expected where a fairly stable point of equilibrium has been reached about which the figures will fluctuate from year to year with the fluctuations generally being greatest where the numbers involved are smallest. For this reason no maternal mortality *rate* is calculated since the occasional tragedies would give unreasonably inflated rates for the years in which they occur. It is sad to record that 1962 was one of those years and there occurred the first death of a mother associated with childbirth since 1952 when there were two.

There was again an increase in the illegitimacy rate, less gradual than forecast, but even so over 95% of all births were still legitimate and this is better than the national average. Perusal of past reports shows that the present rate has been exceeded on a number of occasions previously, most recently in 1952.

There was a further small increase in the death rate (see Table II) though again nearly 70% of deaths were due to degenerative diseases of the cardio-vascular system (coronary disease, hypertension, strokes, etc.), and malignancies, mainly in the middle aged and old. Since Wednesfield has a relatively small proportion

of old people the crude death rate is well below the national average but a large correction factor to eliminate this effect gives the death rate as somewhat greater than the national average. Since accidents frequently affect the younger sectors of the population and since many are essentially avoidable then an increase in deaths from this cause is particularly disturbing and at first sight the increase recorded for 1962 gives cause for concern (7 deaths from motor vehicle accidents and 4 from other accidents in 1962 compared with 2 and 3 in 1961). However, as previously mentioned figures of this order are subject to misleading fluctuations from year to year and enquiry shows, as might be expected, that such a proportion of these accidents take place outside the district that in fact the increase does not spotlight any point for necessary action peculiar to the District.

TABLE I.

UNDERLYING CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANCY

Year 1962

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Day	1 Day to 1 Week	1 Week to 4 Weeks	4 Weeks to 3 Months	3 Months to 6 Months	6 Months to 1 Year	Totals
Prematurity	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Birth Injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Respiratory Infection	—	1	1	—	2	—	4
Gastro-Intestinal Infection	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Meningitis (All Causes)	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Infections	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Rhesus Incompatibility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accidental Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Other	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
TOTALS	3	3	2	2	5	2	17

TABLE II.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1962

Registrar-General's Return

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory System	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Cancer of Stomach	7	2	9
Cancer of Lung, Bronchus	6	1	7
Cancer of Breast	—	1	1
Cancer of Uterus	—	2	2
Other Malignant Diseases	15	9	24
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	—	2
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	21	38
Coronary disease, angina	20	17	37
Hypertension with heart disease	—	6	6
Other Heart diseases	11	10	21
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	5	6
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	8	2	10
Bronchitis	11	4	15
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2	5
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	1	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	1	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	3	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	1	7
All Other Accidents	3	1	4
Suicide	2	2	4
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
All Other Causes	9	12	21
ALL CAUSES	133	106	239

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

General—See Table III

Dysentery

For the earlier part of the year the Health Department continued to co-operate with the Public Health Laboratory's enterovirus survey referred to in the 1961 report. As chance findings two of the children were found to be infected with the organisms of bacillary dysentery. In one case other members of the family had obviously been infected some time earlier and all had received treatment but in the other case all other members of the family including school-children and father, who worked in a slaughterhouse, became infected after we had taken an interest and so with the older children temporarily excluded from school and father given different work till the infections cleared up it may be that in this case we were able providentially to prevent much wider dissemination of the infection.

In two further isolated cases reported in children the diagnosis was made some considerable time after the onset of infection which made preventive measures impracticable. The lack of cases reported in 1961 does not imply a sudden increase in the incidence of infection as it is probable that a large number of cases go undetected or unreported each year.

Food Poisoning

No cases were reported during the year under review.

Smallpox

The occurrence of smallpox in the Black Country and other parts of the country at the beginning of the year proved the highlight of the year respecting infectious diseases in many districts. Although there was considerable public perturbation and puzzling rashes were reported and investigated Wednesfield stood in little danger of being directly affected. So far as was known the only connection between Wednesfield and the cases was the fact that five Indian or Pakistani immigrants had happened to be in a Darlaston cinema when it was attended by one of the cases. Nevertheless all received very close supervision. None of these persons had any reasonable command of English which was a great hindrance but it must be said that all co-operated extremely well in what must have seemed to them rather trying and pointless procedures. One of these persons was a door-to-door salesman and it was apparent that if he had by some remote chance become infected and the nature of his work had become known there would very likely have been considerable panic among the public and also enormous difficulty in tracing even close contacts. In the circumstances his work was temporarily discontinued and he later received compensation under the 1961 Public Health Act.

I would close my remarks on this disease by repeating the statement I made at the time, namely, that I hoped it would impress upon people the need for having their children vaccinated early in life. I am aware that views to the contrary have received considerable publicity in the meanwhile, a major part of this argument resting on the supposed short duration of protection but the Ministry of Health report on the outbreaks (published in 1963) amply demonstrated the efficacy of vaccination in preventing death or serious illness over long periods of time.

Whooping Cough

The number of cases notified was again 4 but there were 44 in 1960 and also 1958 and it is difficult to know what interpretation to put on the present welcome low incidence.

Tuberculosis

At the end of the year there remained on the register 222 cases compared with 265 in 1961 and this marks a genuine decrease in the number of persons requiring observation or treatment in the district.

The number of cases notified at 11 of all types is the lowest recorded in Wednesfield for many years and must represent the lowest rate of incidence of new cases of the disease since records began to be kept and this amply compensates for last year's temporary increase. I have little doubt that in the space of a few years tuberculosis will become a comparatively rare disease and I hope that in Wednesfield further improvements will continue smoothly. The one death recorded from tuberculosis was of an old man as is so frequently the case in these days with tuberculosis deaths.

Cases on Register											
Pulmonary				.....	Male	115	(128)	Female 96 (117)			
Non-Pulmonary				.....	Male	4	(7)	Female 7 (13)			
New Cases											
1939	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
18	28	36	16	15	15	27	33	16	13	21	11

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1962
(or otherwise ascertained)

DISEASES	FINAL NUMBERS AFTER CORRECTION									
	AGE PERIODS—YEARS									
	All Ages	Age Un-known	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 and over	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	31	—	—	7	22	1	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	10	—	—	—	1	3	5	1	3	1
Tuberculosis, Other	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Measles	49	—	2	—	26	20	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS.....	99	—	6	7	51	25	9	1	7	2

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The district is, of course, served by the familiar Family Doctor, Dental and Ophthalmic services which need no further description but there are other services designed to preserve and promote health which largely emanate from Staffordshire County Council and the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

The Chief Officer of the County Council responsible for the Health Services is Dr. G. Ramage, the County Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer. For the purpose of administering these services (other than the School Health Service) the County is divided into areas each with an Area Health Committee served by an Area Medical Officer. Wednesfield is in No. 9 area, the Area Medical Officer being Dr. H. A. H. Summers—offices, 20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury (Tel. Wednesbury 0961). Some features of the services as experienced locally are :—

School Health Services include periodical examination of school children, provision of immunisation facilities, specialist examination and/or treatment of diseases of the ear, nose and throat, dental and ophthalmic clinics, and also speech therapy and physiotherapy clinics. The well equipped dental suite in the new combined clinic in Alfred Squire Road at last came into use in April for the first time and has proved a great boon to children and expectant mothers.

Maternity Services. There were staff changes during the year but at the year's end there were again five midwives practising in the district. Ante-natal clinics were held weekly during the year at the new clinic in Alfred Squire Road and at Guest Avenue and Olinthus Avenue clinics. The midwives work with the Family Doctor and with local authority doctors attending at the clinics and in addition to caring for the mothers and babies before and during labour and during the lying-in period are responsible for providing reports on the domestic circumstances of those expectant mothers whose domestic circumstances might provide grounds for hospital confinement. Hospital confinement can also be arranged for these cases where there are particular medical indications. However, during the year under review the proportion of hospital confinements again was considerably less than experienced nationally and less than many medical authorities have considered desirable. No doubt this situation will have to be endured until there are more maternity beds available.

Health Visitors are very important members of the health team and there were four practising in Wednesfield at the end of the year. They work in homes, schools and clinics and although their duties are multifarious their function is primarily an advisory and supervisory one. Their work in Wednesfield was concerned mainly with babies and children and mothers.

Infant Welfare Clinics continued to be held weekly during the year at Alfred Squire Road, Guest Avenue and Olinthus Avenue clinics and in March another temporary clinic began to function weekly in the Catholic Church Hall at Ashmore Park. These clinics were attended by Health Visitors and Local Authority doctors. Examinations were made, problems explored, immunisations given, welfare foods distributed. Matters of serious import requiring prompt medical attention are, of course, found in these clinics but it must not be forgotten that there are many problems of lesser importance in themselves, e.g., feeding problems, which can seriously undermine a proper mother-child relationship unless promptly put right.

Home Nursing is carried out by District Nurses working in the home on a wide variety of duties under the general direction of the Family Doctors. Four were so employed at the year's end.

A Day Nursery in Wednesfield has 26 places for the children of mothers who work (usually through necessity) or who are temporarily or permanently handicapped in the matter of properly caring for their children.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and smallpox was carried out by Family Doctors as agents of the County Council and, with the exception of smallpox immunisation, the same services were provided in schools and infant welfare clinics. Tetanus immunisations were commenced in the clinics and schools during the year and arrangements were being made for the carrying out of smallpox vaccinations in clinics. There was some continuing demand for immunisation against poliomyelitis so that monthly evening sessions continued to be held at Alfred Squire Road clinic, the immunisations at first being carried out by injection as previously but this was later replaced by the oral vaccination method.

Home Helps and neighbourly helps continued to provide valuable assistance in the home for the acute and chronically ill, the infirm, expectant mothers and other groups in need.

Ambulances were provided mainly from local stations, the nearest being at Darlaston, from where a 24-hour service was operated with overall radio control from the Tipton station.

Hospitals and Clinics for the immediate area and most convenient for Wednesfield residents are :—

GENERAL

Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

EYE DISEASES

Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Moxley Isolation Hospital, Bilston.

Parkfields Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Kingswinford Isolation Hospital.

MATERNITY

New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton.

CHEST CLINIC

Bell Street, Wolverhampton.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

OTHER CONTRIBUTING SERVICES

The Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford, is used by General Practitioners, Local Authorities and Hospitals for a great variety of bacteriological, virological and serological examinations and its assistance in investigating outbreaks of infectious diseases is invaluable.

The County Analyst and his staff, also at Stafford, are responsible for analyses of a great variety of chemicals and foods and are often of great assistance to local authorities including that of the Urban District.

HOUSING, HEALTH AND WELFARE

(Based on information supplied by the Housing Manager, Mr. I. J. Patterson, A.I.Housing).

At the end of the year there were in dwellings provided by the Council 418 ground floor flats, approximately one half of which were occupied by old people and most of the remainder by persons (and their families) with a variety of medical recommendations. In addition there were 32 bungalows provided specifically for old people and 10 flats in the new multi-storey blocks were allocated for old people. Unfortunately most of the old people fought shy of these flats though it has been reported that in some places they have used similar accommodation and been very pleased with it.

In addition to providing these particular types of accommodation adaptations are made to dwellings by the Engineer and Surveyor's department to assist certain handicapped people, part cost being recoverable from the County.

Plans were well forward for the beginning of a flatlets and bungalow scheme for old or handicapped people with a resident warden.

SLUM CLEARANCE, SMOKE CONTROL

Housing repairs and improvements, food hygiene, pest control, etc., etc.,—details of these will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Mains Water Supply

I am indebted to the Water Engineer, Mr. W. C. Johnson, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E., of the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking for the following report on the mains water supply to the district for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

“Sources of Supply

River Water	.....	River Worfe, Cosford.
Boreholes	.....	Boreholes at Cosford, Tettenhall. Dimmingsdale, Hilston, Stableford, Bratch and Tomhill Works.

Distributed Water

- (1) The water supply to the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
- (2) Bacteriological analyses of the water have proved satisfactory at all stages of supply.
- (3) There is no evidence of plumbo-solvent action by the water.
- (4) There has been no known contamination of the distributed water.”

Wells

A few deep wells are still in use in Wednesfield, all but one in the Sandpits area and are sampled from time to time to ensure their wholesomeness.

Sewage Disposal

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor of the Urban District, Mr. T. A. Peacock, M.I.Mun.E., Cert.B.I., for the following report on sewage and sewage disposal for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

“During the year extensions were carried out in a housing estate off Broad Lane South and also off Section V of the Council’s Ashmore Park Housing Estate.

In conjunction with the latter extension the flow was received from the southern part of the village of Essington into the Council's sewers dispensing with the Cannock Rural District Council's own sewage works south of Essington.

The sewage disposal works at both High Level and Low Level sections are overloaded and during the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved in principle the sewerage of the Neachells Lane Industrial Estate and also extensions to the sewage works to provide capacity for the total estimated flows up to 1971.

It is expected that these works will be commenced about the end of 1963 and are estimated to take some two years. During the year, 28 sludge drying beds were brought into operation to assist the sludge drying capacity of the works.

It is interesting to note the increased flow over a ten year period and given below are certain data including the rainfall over similar periods.

	1952	1962
1. Total Flow—Gallons	334,429,400	436,597,000
2. Daily Flow—Gallons	775,750	1,295,982
3. Through Storm Water Tanks	55,526,400	14,060,000
4. Grit and Screening extracted	216 tons	308 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons
5. Total amount of Sludge	3,482 „	7,042 $\frac{1}{2}$
6. Rainfall in inches	25.30	22.16
7. Percentage of Purification	59.73	82.28

The average sewage contains 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of sludge per million gallons.

N.B.—The Sewage Works having been previously overloaded underwent a modernisation scheme commencing in 1954 and completed in 1958.”

MISCELLANY

Registrar

The following are the times and places where the District Registrar, Mr. A. T. Cook, may be seen each week :

MONDAY	.....	10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Hall Street, Bilston. Calves Croft, Willenhall.
TUESDAY	.....	10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Bilston. 29, Bolton Road, Wednesfield.
WEDNESDAY		10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Bilston. Willenhall.
THURSDAY	.....	10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Bilston.
FRIDAY	.....	10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Bilston. Wednesfield.
SATURDAY	.....	10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Bilston.

The information given above is correct at the time of writing.

Disposal of Post-Confinement Debris

I would like to make mention of one small service which is a reflection of the way in which refuse collection is coming to be regarded as an essential public service rather than merely a means of removing unhealthy accumulations of rubbish. Large numbers of new dwellings in Wednesfield, the good progress of smoke control areas and finally the opening of the electrically heated multi-storey flat blocks made acute the problem of disposal of afterbirths and other material following home confinements which traditionally had been disposed of by burning on the open fire and so, just before Christmas was inaugurated a free collection and incineration service which has been found a great boon by midwives and mothers. Strong, wet resistant bags are distributed to the midwives with which to make parcels which are then collected by the Surveyor's Department and disposed of in the Council's own incinerator.

I believe the Council are to be congratulated for acceding to the request for this service which is, I think, far more satisfactory than the more informal arrangements in many areas where the need is beginning to be recognised.

Thanks are extended to New Cross Hospital whose incinerator it was agreed would be made available in the event of trouble with our own.

Medical Examinations

Fifteen persons were examined by the Medical Officer of Health during the year for superannuation purposes or to determine their general fitness for the work for which they had been chosen.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1962

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

Once again I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1962 in which year further extension of Smoke Control Areas have been accomplished, slum clearance continued and the many other regular facets of the work maintained, albeit perhaps not receiving the full attention in some respects as one would wish to maintain.

So far as smoke control is concerned a further area was brought into operation on the 1st December, 1962, involving 93 acres a small proportion of Council Houses and a larger section of private development, and one must here comment that enquiries revealed that 11% of the populace coming under smoke control on the above mentioned date were already conforming prior to any requirement being operative in their area, this is extremely satisfactory as it does reveal that the general public are beginning to realise the value of smoke control and the fight for clean air which every Englishman has a right to breathe.

Much of the initial opposition to the creation of smoke control areas is largely overcome, there being an occasional recalcitrant fuel merchant who is opposed to the development of smoke control in any way at all. It does appear, however, that fuel merchants should need to look to their laurels in this respect because the attempt is being made to maintain a supply of solid fuel in this connection and any movement away from this particular facet must mean less business for the fuel merchant.

Again being so close to a coal field it seems only logical that it should be right and proper to continue to use, so far as is possible, all available supplies of solid smokeless fuel which originate from the coal fields readily available in the area and one feels perhaps the miner has now got over the thought that the change to smoke control means no requirement for coal, this remains an essential part

of the economy of the country and will always be required so long as the burning of solid fuel, the making of gas and the production of electricity by orthodox means remain with us.

Slum Clearance continued but new housing availability was somewhat curtailed by reason of difficulty in connection with land at Ashmore Park which we look forward to being available in the near future with building progress continuing and thus the stepping up again of slum clearance programme.

In the area generally, this is progressing favourably the major portion of slum clearance now being located in the Hickman Street, New Street/Cross Street area where it is hoped a development programme may materialise.

Some difficulties have been experienced with drainage conditions in the fast developing industrial area of the district and it is to be hoped that very shortly we can see the commencement of the new drainage programme put into operation in that area.

The usual difficulties have arisen in respect to nomadic travellers and their caravans being brought into the area and action having to be undertaken to move them on and where possible to ensure that they do not return to the same parcel of land again.

These people are their own enemies, they raise opposition wherever they come by their demanding attitude for services which are not available on the sites or in the vans which they occupy, indeed sometimes using their children to harass the housewife until something is given to them to get them away from the house.

During the course of the year discussions continued in regard to the implementation of the Slaughterhouse Report and the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in this direction so far as Wednesfield is concerned, and discussions were continuing in regard to the making of an appointed day at the end of the year. The old cloud of boundary revision hanging over the heads of negotiations and discussion in many facets of the local authority work in the immediate area.

The Ministry have continued to sit on the fence throughout the whole of the year so far as the implementation of Section 21 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is concerned and have not therefore permitted the registration of mobile vehicles in the country and in particular in the district of Wednesfield which numbers of mobile vehicles continue to cause concern albeit with the opening of the

Wednesfield Market Bye-laws have been formulated and the operation of these are hoped to provide some form of control of the mobile vendors.

I am very pleased to report that the Pupil Public Health Inspector, Mr. T. Townsend, did successfully pass the Intermediate examination of the Public Health Inspectors Examination Board during the year.

In conclusion I would thank the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee and colleagues for help and co-operation during the year which is so greatly appreciated.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

P. H. G. GRIMMETT,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

**Sanitary Improvements carried out as a result of Inspections and
Notices served, both Informal and Statutory**

Dwelling Houses

Doors, windows, flue openings repaired	.....	6
Plasterwork repaired	.....	12
Roofs repaired	.....	4
Eaves gutters repaired	.....	7
Floors repaired	.....	6
Chimney heads, flues repaired	.....	1
Brickwork repaired, repointed	.....	6
Rising dampness obviated	.....	1
Sashcords, fasteners renewed	.....	1
Firegrates repaired.....	.....	3
Stucco work repaired	.....	4
Rubbish removed	.....	1
Fencing and gates renewed	.....	4
Cold water storage tank	.....	3
Provision of fuel storage accommodation	.....	2

Water Closets, Wash-houses, etc.

W.C. cisterns renewed		10
W.C. pedestals renewed	.....	2
Sink waste pipes renewed	.....	1
Sink supports renewed	.....	1

Drainage

Obstructed drains cleared	.....	132
Rain water down pipes repaired or renewed	.....	3
Inspection chambers covers renewed	.....	2
Drainage altered or repaired	.....	2
Drain surrounds rebuilt	.....	4
Soil pipes connections made good	.....	4
Water pipes repaired	.....	3
New sinks provided	.....	2
Ventilation pipes repaired	.....	1
Cesspools repaired	.....	1

Letters and Notices sent out

Preliminary Notices	.....	57
Statutory Notices	.....	32
Letters (all works)	.....	603

Work in Default

12 cases of default action were necessary during the year involving alterations to drains and repairs to mains involving some £103. 13s. 0d. of work.

Statutory Notices sent out

Section 9, Housing Act, 1957	.....	.....	.....	16
Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	9

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

Thirty-two applications for standard grants were made under the above Act for investigation by the Department in most cases for completing the 5 standard amenities by the installation of Hot Water supply, fixed Bath or Shower and Washbasin.

Rent Act, 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair (I)	.....	2
Granted	.....	2
Refused	.....	—
Undertakings received	.....	1
Undertakings accepted	.....	1
Repairs completed	.....	1
Certificates of Disrepair Issued (L)	.....	—
Applications for cancellation	.....	—
Objections received	.....	—
Objections not sustained	.....	—
Applications for Certificates as to Remedying of Defects (O)	.....	—
Applications granted (P)	.....	—
Repairs completed	.....	—

Infectious Diseases, Disinfection and Disinfestation

Infectious disease cases which occurred within the district during 1962 necessitated 52 visits in this connection, appropriate disinfection being carried out upon removal to hospital or termination of infective period. In all 84 sprayings were carried out including 17 for woodworm, 39 for ants, 1 for maggots, 4 for cockroaches, 5 for silverfish, 1 for bugs, 1 for fleas, 1 for red mite, 1 for pool, 1 for cellar, 1 for moths, 1 prior to demolition, 1 for earwigs, 2 for spiders, 2 for wasps, 1 for crickets, 2 for insects, 1 for black beetles, 1 for snakes and 1 for flies. Power blower spraying has been carried out regularly in the Ashmore Park Tip area and has been very successful in controlling cricket infestations.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 154

Observations were maintained on rag and bone merchants moving in your district, in regard to exchanging articles with children under 15 years. In two cases was an offence noted—warnings being sufficient in each case to prevent a re-occurrence.

Water Sampling

Two well water samples taken during the year revealed a satisfactory return, these being deep wells still in operation on the Sandpits area, the two properties now being vacated awaiting demolition.

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Section 9

Notices served	.....	.....	.....	16
Outstanding 31.12.62	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Section 10

Twelve cases.

Section 76—Overcrowding

Ten visits were made in this connection and overcrowding is now almost non-existent in this area. Coloured people occupy some 23 houses in this district, 8 being statutorily overcrowded at 31.12.62. The new Housing Act increase our powers in this direction.

REPORT ON SLUM CLEARANCE ACTIVITY

With particular reference to future housing need

Following the passing of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and further to the official Ministry Circular dated 6th September, 1955, your agreed Slum Clearance Programme Return was made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government under Section I of the Act indicating step by step how Wednesfield's sub-standard houses were to be dealt with.

588 properties were included in your Section I Return and to date the following 243 properties remain to be dealt with summarily notably those in your Central Area. 13 properties were demolished during the year.

Individual Unfit Demolition Property	.....	.....	.....	.....	Total 25
				<i>Schedule for Action</i>	
"Glenview," Noose Lane	.....	.....		This year (1962) subject to inspection	
1, Noose Lane	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "
167, 169, Blackhalve Lane	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "
"Rose Cottage"	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "
"Grassmere," Watery Lane	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "
"Meadow View," "George" and Trentham Cottage, Sandpits	.....	.....		This year (1962) subject to re-inspection but subject to action (1963)	
67, 69, 71, Lichfield Road	.....	.....		This year (1962) subject to re-inspection	
"Glenhurst," Duke Street	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "
1, 2, 7, 8, Duke Street	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "
Wood Hayes Farm	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "
Evans Bungalow, Moat House Lane	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "
449, 451, Lichfield Road	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "
1 and 2 Bungalows, Fibbersley	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "
172, 174, Wood End Road	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "
Castlebridge Canal Cottage	.....	.....	.....	" "	" "

<i>Clearance Areas, Proposed Area No.</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>.....</i>	<i>.....</i>	Total 32
Wednesfield (Lichfield Road No. 3)	 25	This year (1962) subject to re-inspection		
Wednesfield (Well Lane No. 1)	 7			
Central Development Area	.....			Total 185

From the above figures it can readily be seen that the programme has fallen behind considerably in the past 12 months, and activity has been eased to obviate properties standing for an unnecessary length of time before rehousing and demolition after the Order thereon has been confirmed.

Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Order

<i>Order</i>	<i>Submitted</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Persons Displaced</i>	<i>Demo-lished</i>
Rookery Street No. 1 Clearance Area	1954E	1955	14	1955	1955
March End No. 1 Clearance Order	1954E	1955	10	1955	1956
March End No. 2 Clearance Order	1954E	1955	3	1955	1956
High Street No. 1 Compulsory Purchase Order	1954E	1955	9	1955	1956
Wood End No. 1 Clearance Order	1955E	1956	3	1956	1956
Wood End No. 2 Clearance Order	1955	1956	7	1956	1956
Cross Street Compulsory Purchase Order	1955	1956	8	1956	1956
Wood End No. 3 Clearance Order	1955E	1957	14	1959	1960
Wood End No. 4 Clearance Order	1956E	1957	9	1957	1960
Rookery Street No. 2 Clearance Order	1956	1957	4	1957	1959
Rookery Street No. 3 Clearance Order	1956	1957	3	1957	1958
Lichfield Road No. 1 Clearance Order	1957E	1958	13	1959	1960
Hickman Street Compulsory Purchase Order	1957E	1959	3	1959	1961
Hall Street Clearance Order	1957	1958	19	1959	1959
Waddensbrook No. 1 Clearance Order	1958	1958	3	1959	1959
Waddensbrook No. 2 Clearance Order	1958	1958	22	1959	1959
Waddensbrook No. 3 Clearance Order	1958	Negotiation	4	1960	1960

Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders—*continued*

Taylor Street No. 1					
Clearance Order	1958	Negotiation	4	1962	—
Wood End No. 5					
Clearance Order	1959E	„	14	80%	60%
Moat House Lane					
Clearance Area	1959	Purchased	4	1962	1962
March End No. 3					
Clearance Area	1959	„	6	1962	1962
March End No. 4					
Clearance Area	1959	„	8	1962	—
Lichfield Road No. 2					
Clearance Area	1959	Negotiation	5	40%	—
Hickman Street No. 2					
Clearance Area	1959	Purchased	16	1962	1962
Hadleys Fold					
Clearance Area	1960	Re-submitted	5	1962	—
Hadleys Fold (Open Market)					
Compulsory Purchase Order	1962	Negotiation	5	95%	—
Wood End No. 7					
Clearance Order	1962E	1962	6	40%	—
Wood End No. 8					
Clearance Order	1962	1962	8	12½%	12½%
Hickman Street No. 3					
Compulsory Purchase Order	1962E	Awaited	45	—	—

Precautions before Demolition

32 dwellings were thoroughly disinfested such treatment proving a highly successful prelude to the demolition, closure or removal of tenants.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Food Sampling

The following analysis is of milk and food samples taken in the Wednesfield District by Staffordshire County Council.

Milk

Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	1
T.T. (Pasteurised)	.....	.....	10
Pasteurised	.....	.....	4
Sterilised	.....	.....	4
			—
TOTAL	.....		19 <i>All genuine</i>
			—

General Foods

Number of Samples Taken	.....	74
Number of Samples Genuine	.....	69
Number of Samples Adulterated		5

Classification of General Foods

Sterilised Cream	Ice Cream
Creamery Butter	Grapefruit Squash
Lard (2 samples)	Clotted Cream
Lime and Lemon (2 samples)	Meat Paste—Ham and Tongue
Malt Vinegar	Sweet Ground Almonds
Apple and Strawberry Jam	Blackcurrant Cordial
Lamb and Peas with Gravy	Almond Flavour
Red Salmon	Evaporated Milk
Tea Rusks	Cheese Spread with Crab
Full Cream Milk	Oxo Flavoured Crisps
Pork Sausage containing	Cranberry Chutney
Preservative (5 samples)	Ground White Pepper (3 samples)
Tomato Juice	Vegetable Juices
Puff Pastry Mix	Instant Mashed Potato
Segments of Orange	Ice Cream Mixture
and Grapefruit in Syrup	Almond Marzipan
Lemon Curd (2 samples)	Chocolate Blackcurrant Cream
Camphorated Oil B.P.	Biscuits
Almond Oil B.P.	Tomato Puree
Fryers Balsom B.P.	Ground Black Pepper
Calamine Lotion B.P.	Beef Red Beans and Sauce
Witch Hazel	Mixed Pickles in Wine Vinegar
Glucose and Rose Water	Home-made Chutney
Piperozine Citrate Elizar B.P.C.	Beans in Rich Tomato Sauce
Minadex Syrup	Prepared Oranges
Solution of Hydrogen Peroxide	Golden Sugar Corn
B.P.	Minced Beef Loaf
Jeyes Linctus	Pork Luncheon Meat
Ground Ginger	Mushroom Soup
Meat Paste—Chicken and Ham	Pineapple Apricot Preserve
Sweetened Suet Pudding Mix	Cheese Spread
Butter	Gin and Lime Sweets
Pepper Sauce	Corned Beef
Butter Queen Cakes	Blanc-mange Powder
Mincemeat	

Particulars of Adulterated Samples

88 C/Q—GROUND WHITE PEPPER—FORMAL	
Contained an excessive amount of sand and Siliceous matter.	Formal repeat samples genuine.
94 C/Q—ALMOND MARZIPAN—FORMAL	
Contained 20.7% instead of 25.0% Ground Almonds and was 17.2% deficient of its proper proportion of Ground Almonds.	Old Stock. New stock genuine.

- 16 C/R—MIXED PICKLES IN WINE VINEGAR—FORMAL
 Label did not bear complete list of ingredients. Matter taken up with Italian packers by the importers.
- 19 C/R—BEANS IN RICH TOMATO SAUCE—FORMAL
 Contained a foreign ingredient—a small pea sized pellet of compacted soil and sandy matter. Cautioned.
- 22 C/R—MINCED BEEF LOAF—FORMAL.
 Sample 10.3% deficient of its proper proportion of meat. Cautioned. More care to be taken by manufacturers.

Licensed Premises

The 31 licensed premises within the district have been regularly visited during the year, such visits resulting in 3 Informal Notices and the following improvements having been carried out :—

Lead Sinks replaced	.....	.....	.....	—
Extension of W.C. accommodation	.....	.....	.....	—
Screening of Conveniences	.....	.....	.....	—
Repair of Toilet Apartments fittings	.....	.....	.....	—
Wash Basins provided	.....	.....	.....	—
Limewashing of Cellars	.....	.....	.....	1
Hot Water Systems	.....	.....	.....	—
Glass Washing Machines	.....	.....	.....	—
Polythene Feed Pipes replacements	.....	.....	.....	—
General Decoration	.....	.....	.....	1
Ventilation and Lighting to W.C's.	.....	.....	.....	2
Drainage repair	.....	.....	.....	1

No notices were outstanding at the end of the year, which indicates the degree of co-operation which exists with the Breweries concerned.

Mobile Vehicles

These continue to poach on the new housing estates and although opinion has been expressed that these are providing a need for the families not near shops, this argument falls to the ground when such mobile vehicles park in front of the shops and trade in such positions. and this difficulty of lack of registration and control does not help the trading atmosphere of the district generally and mitigates strongly against the economics of rising costs where static premises are concerned.

I feel the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is being short sighted in his outlook toward this problem or conversely he does not trust the local authority and its officers to operate such a scheme fairly. What a commentary !

Clean Air Act, 1956

Allied to the activity that has been undertaken in regard to the increase of smoke control areas and therefore the requirements of domestic properties to conform to smoke control, activity has also been maintained with regard to industrial premises and generally speaking there is a reduction in the area of atmospheric pollution generally, albeit "one or two sore thumbs" still stick out silhouetted on the horizon ; by virtue of technical difficulties which preclude at the moment any conclusive result being obtained whereby the issue of such pollution from such processes can be mitigated in an economic manner.

However, much consideration is being given to this by the Alkali Inspectorate, and with whom co-operation is being maintained whose responsibility this primarily is, and it is hoped that shortly there will be some tangible results which will be readily noticed and seen by the inhabitants at large.

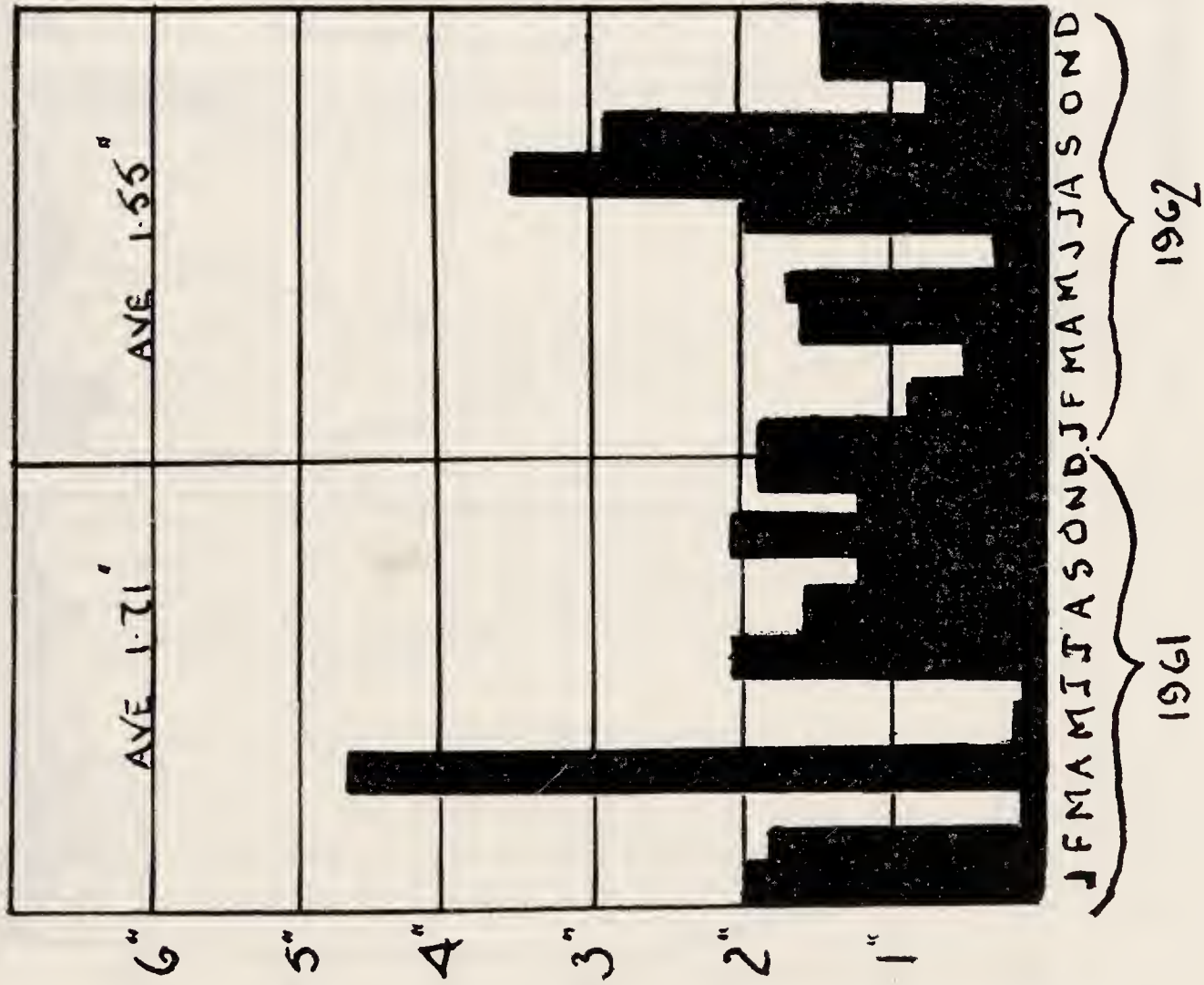
Much advice, instruction and education has been undertaken in regard to advising householders of smoke control technicalities and the need for a different approach with a fire of solid smokeless fuel as opposed to the ordinary old established coal fire and I would thank the organisations who have helped so much in this direction, The West Midlands Gas Board, The Solid Smokeless Fuel Federation, The Coal Utilisation Council and others who have done much in this direction. The Staff have undertaken fire lighting to reveal the practicality of this approach and indeed have shown the building of fires to ensure an adequate burning capacity of smokeless fuels.

The difficulty with a lot of people is still the fact of the coal outlook that a couple of lumps put together will keep each other company and burn brightly, this is not the possibility with smokeless fuel and a deep fire bed is essentially necessary to ensure that it burns brightly and satisfactorily. When this is mastered then it will also be found that it burns more economically than ordinary bituminous coal.

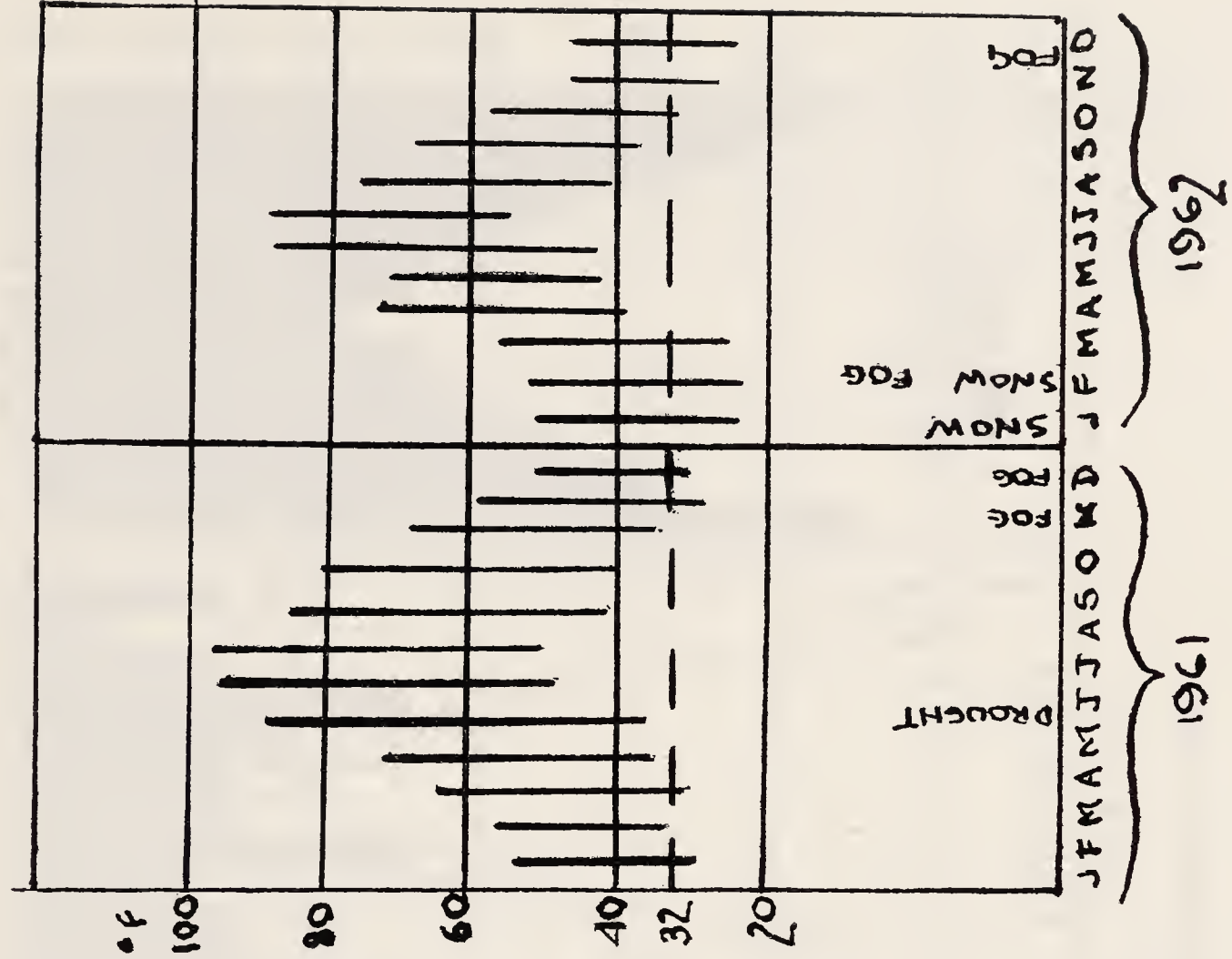
Furthermore, it would be to the economic advantage of this country for all the valuable constituents of coal to be made available for the medical and chemical world rather than the same go up the chimney in a pollution to assist the ravages of disease in the human race.

Warning letters have been sent out to those people who have continued the burning of bituminous coal revealed by smoke coming from their chimney tops and thus vigilance has been maintained which in time has brought them to realise the circumstances and with the conversations which have ensued have thus been able to learn of the requirements of the Clean Air Act to its full extent and indeed the penalties therein if conformation to the smoke control order is not observed, furthermore such advice has helped them economically in their usage of fuel.

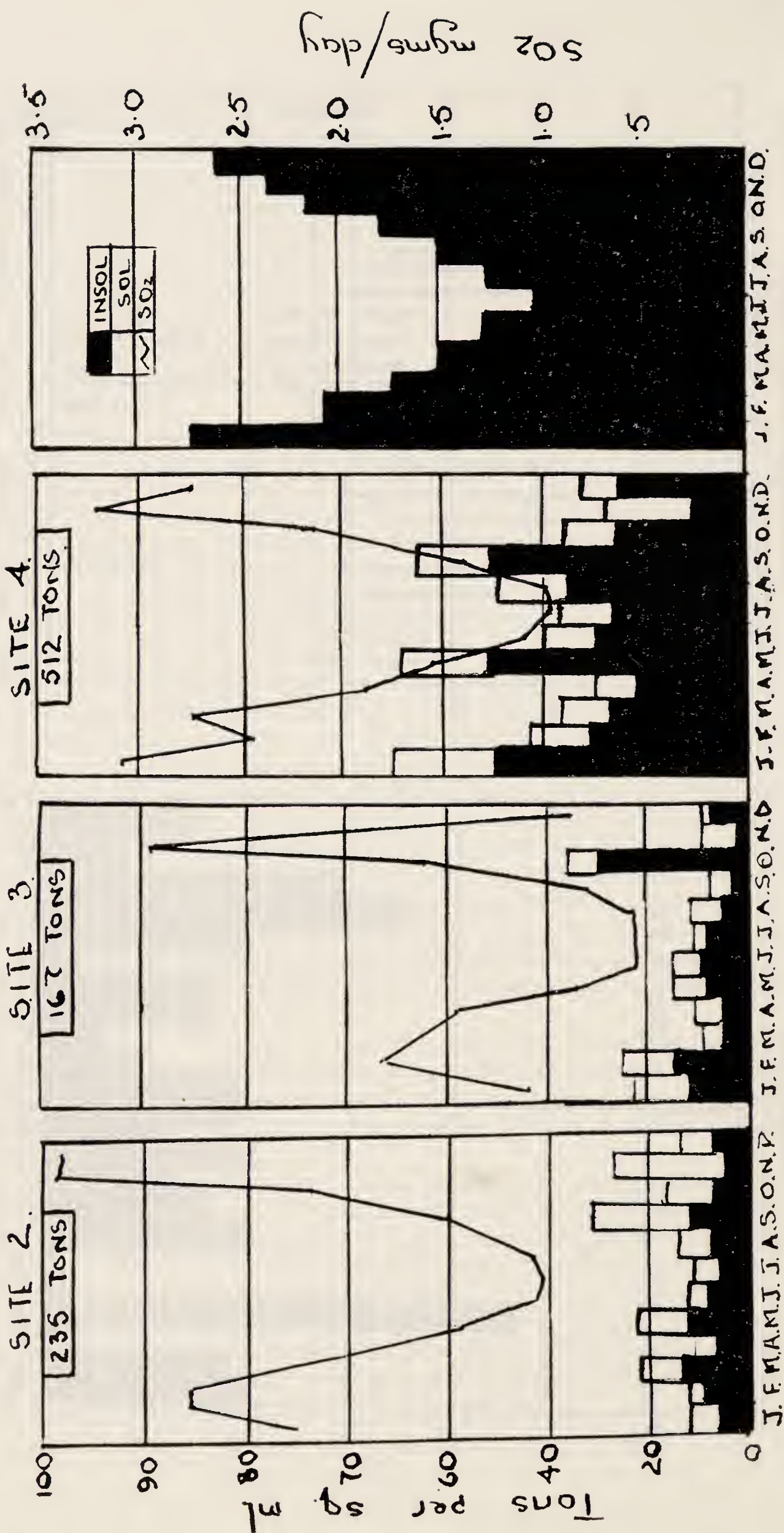
RAINFALL



WEATHER CONDITIONS



ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION 1962



Noise Abatement Act, 1960

No statutory complaint was received in regard to the implementation of the Noise Abatement Act but contacts were made with many who complained in regard to various noises in the area, in particular the playing and testing of an amplifier in a terraced house which was suitable for a dance hall ceased as the result of overtures in regard to the matter.

Types of Food Shops in the Urban District

Grocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	71
Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
Sweets and Confectionery	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Cafes	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Fish and Chip Saloons	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Off-Licences	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Chemists	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Bakery	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Inspections under the above Regulations have been maintained throughout the year and I am pleased to report that the general standard remains high. It was not found necessary for any notices to be served.

It was found necessary, however, to issue warnings with regard to smoking offences particularly in delivery vans, and also warnings in respect to not wearing proper protective clothing.

Meat Inspection

Once again as in 1961 a 100% meat inspection was maintained meeting as far as practicable Ministry standards as detailed in Memo 3 (Meat).

Tuberculosis was once again conspicuous by its absence making this one time dreadful scourge a thing of the past, thanks to the nationwide Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme.

Licensing of the one slaughterhouse was extended from October, 1962, until December 31st.

In respect to the implementation of the requirements of modification to the slaughterhouse in Wednesfield discussions are continuing and the Minister having turned down the application of the Local Authority to purchase this slaughterhouse, making the comment as boundary revisions are in the offing.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Food Not of the Nature, or Substance or Quality Demanded

Several cases arose during the year which necessitated report to Health Committees and the general summary is appended herewith.

1. **TINNED PEAS**—containing decapitated beetle

No explanation was forthcoming in this instance as all conceivable precautions are taken to prevent such an occurrence. Most probably due to human error.

2. **FROZEN PEAS**—containing beetle

Similar precautions are taken during manufacture as in the above case. Once again put down to the human element.

3. **TINNED LUNCHEON MEAT**—Defect in lacquering

Lengthy investigations in this matter lead to the return of the tin to the manufacturers in Holland who carried out extensive chemical examination on it.

From their results it appeared that the lacquer was chipped during manufacture of the tin and consequently electro chemical reactions took place between the metal and the meat contents.

4. **CHOCOLATE ECLAIR**—Mould growth

Investigations revealed a lack of rotational sale on behalf of the shop keeper.

5. **PEAS**—Souring

Once again the tin was returned to the manufacturers who, upon examination, concluded that slight damage to the rim of the can prevented efficient seaming, thereby allowing air in with consequent putrifaction of the contents.

6. **CREAM PUFF**—Containing live cockroach

A visit to this bakery revealed several points which required attention. These were notified to the Chief Public Health Inspector in whose district the bakery was situated and that we are advised that modifications to the extent of £300 0s. 0d. were undertaken.

7. **BREAD**—Mould growth

This, as with case No. 4, revealed a lack of rotational sale by the shop keeper.

8. BILBERRY TART—Mould growth

Sale of this tart led to a Court Action as this was the second offence on which the bakery had defaulted. The firm admitted the offence and offered no reasonable explanation.

The Magistrates Court fined the Company £15. 0s. 0d. with costs.

9. PORK PIE—Mould growth

Yet again case of none rotational sale.

10. ORANGE DRINK—containing fruit fly

No satisfactory explanation available as to the reason of presence.

In all cases, other than No. 8, strong warning letters were issued.

Two foods, namely a tin of soft herring roes, and a tin of powdered baby milk were submitted for analysis following complaints that they both caused vomiting and diarrhoea. No organisms of the salmonella or shigella groups were isolated. No further action was taken.

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders

Further instances of depositing crates of bottles on the public highway occurred, that it was found necessary to issue a strong warning letter to the company concerned.

Housing Act, 1961

An extensive survey towards the end of the year of multi-occupied houses within the district showed a total of 52 such properties. Of these roughly 75% were overcrowded and it was estimated that in order to reduce this overcrowding, assuming the influx of immigrants remained static, 41 one bedroomed flats, 13 two bedroomed dwellings and 4 three bedroomed houses would need to be provided.

Only one notice has been served as yet, and that was for the replacement of a bath, it being removed to provide an additional bedroom.

It was felt that the personal approach to landlords be tried first. With what results, remain to be seen.

January 1st. to December 31st. 1962

Cattle—No. of carcasses inspected 60

DISEASES	Carcas- es	Head	Lungs	Liver	Heart	Kid- neys	Spleen	Intest- ines	Skirt	Other
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fascioliasis	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Angiomatosis	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscesses	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peritoniti;	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned
in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed	60	Nil	6	417	Nil	1
Number inspected	60	Nil	6	417	—	1
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	3	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22	—	—	48	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	36.6%	0%	0%	11.2%	0%	0%
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	—
Cysticercosis. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Food Inspection

During the course of the year the undermentioned items of food have been condemned as unfit for human consumption.

43 lbs. 12 oz. Corned Beef	Decomposition and Putrefaction
28 lbs. 8 oz. Luncheon Meat	” ” ”
12 lbs. Jellied Veal	Putrefaction of Gelatine
8 lbs. Gammon Ham	” ”
8 lbs. 2 oz. Tinned Tomatoes	Leaky and Damaged Cans
8 lbs. Tinned Apricots	” ”
4 lbs. Tinned Brisket Beef	Decomposition
2½ pints Evaporated Milk	Leaky and Damaged Cans
2 lbs. Tinned Peas	” ”
3 lbs. Fruit Salad	” ”
2 lbs. Tinned Pears	” ”
2½ lbs. Tinned Grapefruit	” ”
4 lbs. Tinned Peaches	” ”
2 lbs. Condensed Soup	” ”
1½ lbs. Tinned Creamed Rice	” ”
1 lb. Tinned Salmon	”
8 oz. Tinned Pilchards	” ”
1 lb. Tinned Strawberries	” ”
1 lb. Tinned Blackberries	” ”
12 oz. Tinned Lambs Tongues	Decomposition
1 lb. Tinned Casserole Steak	”

Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of Ice cream in the area, the manufacture of this commodity now largely being concentrated in the hands of the larger companies and sampling of their commodity at periodical intervals revealed that a high standard had been maintained both in manufacture and distribution.

All shops were maintained in conformity with the Food Hygiene Regulations, there have been, however, an increase in the number of mobile vehicles operating within the district and one feels that such mobile vehicles should be registered and approved before coming on to the road although the trend is to a much better standard than hitherto.

Wednesfield’s Open Market

This has continued throughout the year and maintained a reasonably high standard. No open food is sold on the market as such but during the course of the year 6 permanent stalls erected on the periphery of the market site and these are to be occupied solely by food purveyors and it is likely that one will be available for butchers meat which has not been sold on the market up to the moment.

Fish and Chip Saloon

There are now 5 registered saloons in the district. One new licence was applied for, 32 visits were made.

Mortuary

During the year a total of 26 bodies have been admitted to the Council’s Mortuary and post-mortem results revealed the following causes of death :—

Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Coronary Thrombosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Gas Poisoning (Suicide)	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Pneumoconiosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Asphyxia	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Hanging (Suicide)	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Multiple Injuries (Suicide and Accident)					2

During the course of the year construction has commenced upon the new mortuary for the district which will be on ultra-modern lines and this will be a marked difference from that which has been in use for many years in the district, it being restricted in size and space and therefore better services and facilities will be available in the new mortuary to meet the need of this developing district.

Litter Act, 1958

Vigilance has been maintained in respect to the dumping of litter in the area but difficulty is experienced in apprehending the selfish people who to keep their own door step clean, convey in their nice new motor car their unwanted litter and drop it at the road side after dark.

The Council, however, are resolved to prosecute on any information made available to them and are also to increase the litter bins in the area.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One premise remains licensed in this connection, conditions being maintained very satisfactory. Two visits were made.

Registration of Old Metal Dealers. Public Health Amendments Act, 1907—Section 86

Four dealers are registered under this section and operate in the district, surveillance having been maintained throughout the year in full co-operation with the Local Police Inspector.

Gypsies

Eighteen incursions took place within the district during the year and in eight instances it was necessary to forcibly eject them failing co-operation on their part in moving.

Only four sites remain available to them and investigations are now to hand to see if these sites can be closed. Previously, the erection of concrete posts and ditching has had the required effect.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Activity continues toward the elimination of pests common to man and good co-operation is operating between the department with factories, school sites, etc., and in the carrying out of periodic sewer treatment such treatment reveals that the district is not suffering from any serious infestation but that sporadic infestations are revealed in new development areas on the fringe of the populated areas. The following tables give details of activity undertaken.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for period 1st January to 31st December, 1962.

1. PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE

	Total (i)	Number of Properties in Local Authority's Area in which Infestation was			Analysis of Column (iv)		
		Notified by Occupier (ii)	Otherwise discovered (iii)	Recorded Total of (ii) & (iii) (iv)	Number infested by		
					Rats		Mice only (vii)
					Major (v)	Minor (vi)	
Local Authority's Property	7	6	1	7	6	—	—
Dwelling House (<i>Estimate</i>)	8,500	171	18	189	12	100	59
Business Premises	352	20	3	23	10	5	5
Agricultural Property	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8,860	197	22	219	28	105	64

2. MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

	No. of Properties inspected	No. of Inspections made	Number of Notices served under Section 4		Number of Treatments carried out			Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sect. 6 (1) or by informal arrangement		
			Treatments	Works	By arrangement with occupier		Under Section 5 (1)	No. of Blocks	Surface	Assoc. Sewers
					Rats	Mice only				
Local Authority's Property	7	42	—	—	6	—	—	4	—	4
Dwelling House	189	620	—	—	112	59	—	24	66	12
Business Premises	23	46	—	—	15	5	—	6	16	6
Agricultural Property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	219	708	—	—	133	64	—	34	82	22

The estimated kill for the whole 12 months is as follows :—

Business Premises	82 rats.	25 mice.
Private Dwellings	280 "	180 "
Urban District Council Premises	55 "	— "

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Prevention of Cruelty Regulations, 1958

Three slaughtermen were licensed in the district. In each case a copy of the above regulations was enclosed. None are licensed to slaughter horses.

Shops Act, 1950

270 shops are on the register of the Urban District, all being satisfactorily maintained against the requirements of the Shops Act, 181 are food shops, the remaining 89 being divided as follows :—

Drapery, Millinery, Haberdashery	20
Wireless, Cycle, T.V. and Electric Stores	8
Hairdressing	11
Tobacconists	1
Newsagent/Tobacco	14
Boot and Shoe Repairers	9
Hardware and Ironmongery	7
Dry Cleaners	3
Post Offices	4
Watch and Clock Repairers, Jewellery	1
Corn Stores	1
Pet Shop	1
Libraries	3
Gas Appliances	1
Garden Tools and Timber.....	1
Toys, Perambulators	2
Wallpapers, Paints.....	3
Footwear	1
Outfitters	1

Certain of the above combine trades under one roof. All were conducted satisfactorily under the Shops Act legislation.

Continual observations have been made in respect to Shops Act legislation as such and no extreme contravention has been observed during the year under review.

Population

Rough figures and estimates are maintained in regard to the estimated population of the district incorporating the influx population as a result of Overspill Building Scheme, and agreement with the County Council and the County Borough of Wolverhampton. I estimate the population of the district at the year end to be 34,250.

Factories Act, 1937

The Table (page 48) reveals that the tempo of activity under this Act has been maintained throughout the year. The variety of trades and new development has taken place in an ordered manner on your Southern area thus keeping Industry in this zone. The general standard remains high, although difficulty is still experienced in the Hickman Street area which is subject of procedure under the Housing Acts.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Factories Act 1937

1.—INSPECTIONS

for purposes of provisions as to health
Including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors

Premises	Number of		
	Factories on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories with mechanical power	84	8	2
Factories without mechanical power	20	6	—
Other premises under the Act (including works or building and engineering construction but not including outworker's premises).	16	12	1
TOTAL	120	26	3

2.—DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)				
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	5	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	6	—	—

Outworkers numbered 5, 2 boxmaker, 2 apparel repairers, and 1 jewel setter, all of which were maintained satisfactorily throughout the year.

